

TO: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Lori Sherwood, Cable Administrator

SUBJECT: Ellicott City Cable Resolution

DATE: September 12, 2008

I write to request that the County Council approve this resolution extending the time to enter into a secondary cable television franchise agreement with Ellicott City Cable for the communities of Taylor Village and Waverly Woods.

While the County is currently engaging in serious franchise negotiations with Ellicott City Cable, it is not certain that a final agreement will be reached by November 1, when the current extension period expires.

Background

On July 30, the County Council passed Resolution No. 74-2008 and No. 75-20008 that granted a 90 day extension for the Ellicott City Cable secondary franchise negotiations. This 90 day extension expires on November 1, 2008. If Ellicott City Cable and the County Executive do not reach an agreement by November 1, and the Council does not grant another extension, the franchise application expires without further action from the County.

According to Section 14.408(e) of the Howard County Cable Television Systems Franchise Act, the County Council can extend the negotiation period for good cause.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact to the County associated with this resolution.

Recommendation

I recommend approval of the resolution to extend the deadline to complete negotiations of the franchise agreement between Howard County and Ellicott City Cable Company.

Next Steps

The County will continue negotiations with Ellicott City Cable to finalize secondary cable franchise agreements for the communities of Waverly Woods and Taylor Village. Once an agreement has been reached, the public comment process begins with advertisement of the agreement and a public hearing.